

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 3, 16, 19 and 21 have been amended, and claims 2, 17 and 18 have been canceled. Upon entry of this response claims 1, 3-16, and 19-24 will be pending in the application.

Claims 9-15 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-8 and 18-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 16 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 16. Accordingly, the application has been placed in condition for allowance.

The rejections of claims, 1, 16 and 17 are moot in view of the amendment.

The first paragraph of the specification has been replaced with a new paragraph that includes the serial numbers of three related patent applications filed concurrently with the instant application.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1/12/05

By 

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